

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - February 12, 2008**

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Edgardo Vilas pled guilty today in federal court in San Diego to an Information charging him with one count of possession of child pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B). Vilas entered his guilty plea before Magistrate Judge Nita L. Stormes, subject to final acceptance of the plea by United States District Court Judge Jeffrey T. Miller, at the time of sentencing.

According to the court records, Vilas admitted that on or about January 11, 2008, he possessed a computer which contained over 600 images of minors, some as young as six years old, engaging in sexually explicit conduct with adults and each other.

Prior to his arrest, Vilas was a teacher at Rancho Del Campo, Juvenile Court and Community School.

Sentencing for Vilas is scheduled for May 2, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., before Judge Miller.

This case stems from an investigation by the San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, whose members include Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the San Diego Police Department, the San Diego Sheriff's Department, the San Diego District Attorney's Office, the San Diego City Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Chula Vista Police Department, the La Mesa Police Department, and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide Department of Justice initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov)

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 08cr0346-JM**

EDGARDO VILAS

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B) (Possession of Child Pornography)

Maximum Penalty: 10 years' incarceration, \$250,000 fine, a minimum of 5 years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and registration as a sex offender.

**AGENCY**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement